

LOKI

AGENTS OF SIXX

I
CHALLENGE
YOU TO MATCH
YOUR POWERS
AGAINST MINE,
LOKI!

NEVER BEFORE HAS
THE HEROIC
LOKI
FACED A FOE
AS DANGEROUS
AS
THOR,
THE GOD OF
VILLAINY!!

FOLLOW THESE
OTHER PLOT
THREADS
IN THIS
GREAT ISSUE...

"LORELEI'S
LARCENOUS
LOOTING!"

"ODIN'S
JUDGMENT!"

IT IS **THOR**, MY
SWORN ENEMY!
HE HAS FOUND
ME AT LAST!

EWING
GARBETT
WOODARD

MARVEL 009

LEE GIB
ARTING
MURRAY

THIS IS THE STORY OF LOKI.

LOKI, WHO, BORN AGAIN, SOUGHT TO ERASE THE MISDEEDS OF THE PAST, WHO SOUGHT TO CHANGE.

IN SPITE OF HIS ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE, THOUGH, HE HAD A POWERFUL COMBATANT IN THE LOKI OF THE FUTURE, WHOSE SOLE ENDEAVOR WAS TO ENSURE HIS DARK REALITY WOULD COME TO PASS BY TRAPPING HIS YOUNGER SELF IN IT.

IN HIS TRAVELS, LOKI CAME ACROSS MYSTIC SISTERS **AMORA THE ENCHANTRESS** AND THE SORCERESS **LORELEI**, WHOSE QUARRELS ONLY INTENSIFIED AS AMORA RENOUNCED HER EVIL WAYS. MEANWHILE, LORELEI, ALONG WITH HER ASGARDIAN MAN-OF-THE-MOMENT **SIGURD**, STRAYED FROM THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW ONTO THE PATH OF BANK ROBBERY.

STORIES SUCH AS THESE ARE RARELY SOLITARY MOMENTS. THEY RESONATE ACROSS OTHER TALES OF GOOD AND EVIL, ALONGSIDE HEROES AND MONSTERS, MARTYRS AND GODS—AND THIS STORY IS NO DIFFERENT. AS **THOR** FELL FROM GRACE, LOKI WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A WARRIOR FOR THE SIDE OF RIGHT, A HERO FOR THE AGES. AS A BATTLE—THE LIKES OF WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN SEEN IN THE NINE REALMS—WAS ON THE PRECIPICE OF ERUPTING, LOKI FOUND HIMSELF AGAINST HIS BROTHER, THRUST INTO THE ROLE OF CHAMPION OF ALL THINGS NOBLE, THE UNCERTAIN BUT WILLING...

...AGENT OF AXIS.

NOTE: THIS STORY TAKES PLACE DURING THE EVENTS OF **AXIS #9** AND BEFORE THE EVENTS OF **THOR #1**.

ONCE, LOKI LAUFHEYSON WAS THE SELFISH GOD OF MISCHIEF--BUT THOSE DAYS ARE OVER! NOW--ARMED WITH GRAM, THE SWORD OF TRUTH, AND HIS OWN MAGICS--HE FIGHTS FOR THE FORCES OF GOOD AS THE GOD OF HEROISM!

MARVEL COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS:

LOKI

AGENT OF ASXUS

There is air
on the moon.

In the Blue Area--a pocket
atmosphere created eons ago
by the Kree, where a man might
breathe, and speak, and walk.

And stumble.

As Loki Laufeyson limps
through the moon dust, feeling
his cracked ribs, his cuts
and contusions, the bitter
cold seeping into his
bruised bones...

...he wonders if he has
stumbled. If he has fallen,
on the road to his
better self.

If this barren wasteland,
far from any home he
knows...will be his grave.

Good Sons Like You...

Al Ewing
writer

Lee Garbett
artist

Nolan Woodard
color artist

VC's Clayton
Cowles
letterer

Lee Garbett
cover artist

Jon Moisan
asst. editor

Wil Moss & Lauren Sankovitch
editors

Axel Alonso
editor in chief

Joe Quesada
chief creative officer

Dan Buckley
publisher

Alan Fine
exec. producer

Loki created by Stan Lee, Larry Lieber & Jack Kirby

And he remembers the events that led him here...

I... I WON'T FIGHT YOU... LOOK INTO YOUR HEART, BROTHER...

A TERRIBLE PLAGUE IS UPON YOU.

YOU ARE THE ONLY AFFLICTION THAT HAUNTS ME!

YOU BOYS NEED A TIME-OUT.

CONSIDER THIS A FREE INTERVENTION FROM YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN!

AT WHICH POINT, SPIDER-MAN RESCUED ME FROM LAS VEGAS AND BROUGHT ME HERE--

--TO AVENGERS MANSION.

YOU REALLY WOULDN'T HAVE FOUGHT THOR?

NO, BUT ONLY BECAUSE, DEEP DOWN...

I WANTED TO.

*IN AXIS 86-WIL.

I WANTED TO GRIND HIS SMUG FACE INTO THE DIRT.

AND THAT SCARES ME.

HEY! LOKI! ENCHANTRESS!

ROGERS SAYS FIFTEEN MINUTES TO GO TIME, BE READY.

The voice--like a tiger starved of meat--belonged to Sabretooth, one of the X-Men's greatest foes--

--at least until the strange inversion that turned villains to heroes, and vice versa.

Now he was an Avenger, putting his life on the line to save humanity...from the evil X-Men.

Some things, it seems, never changed.

CREED, WE HAVE LESS THAN AN HOUR TO STOP APOCALYPSE--



CAN'T BE HELPED. VIDEO NEEDS SOME EDITING. SPIDEY NEEDS FRESH WEBS. ROGERS IS FINALIZING THE BATTLE PLAN...

...PICK A REASON AND ENJOY THE MOMENT.

COULD BE THE LAST YOU EVER GET.



...
WE COULD DIE TODAY, COULDN'T WE?

I'M NOT EVEN AFRAID OF IT. LAYING DOWN MY LIFE IN THE SERVICE OF MIDGARD... I'D DO IT HAPPILY.

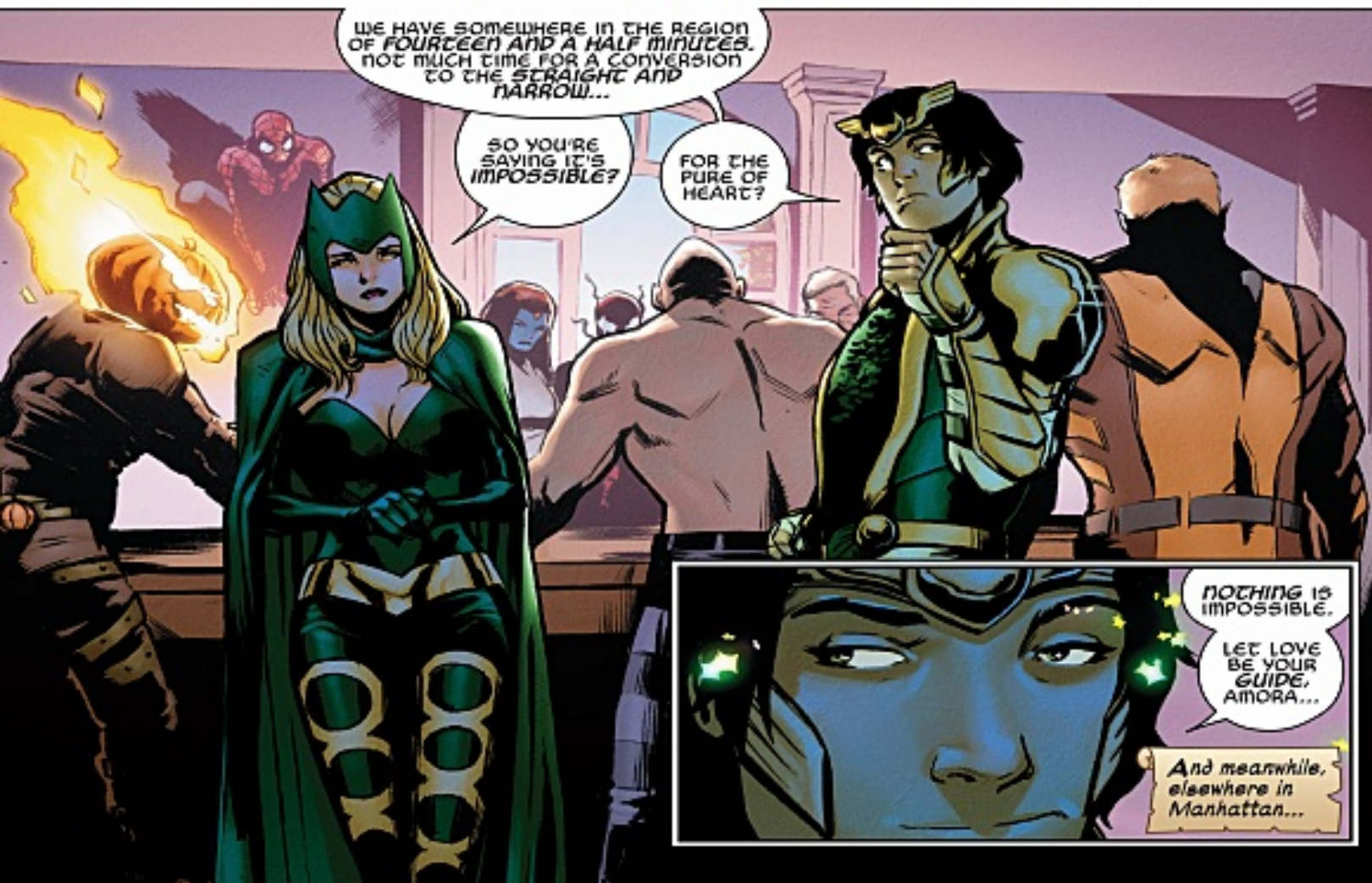


BUT FOR ONE THING.

OH?

MY POOR SISTER. I DO LOVE HER, LOKI. I ONLY WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR HER.

PERHAPS... IF I COULD TALK TO HER, ONE LAST TIME...



WE HAVE SOMEWHERE IN THE REGION OF FOURTEEN AND A HALF MINUTES. NOT MUCH TIME FOR A CONVERSION TO THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW...

SO YOU'RE SAYING IT'S IMPOSSIBLE?

FOR THE PURE OF HEART?



NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE.

LET LOVE BE YOUR GUIDE, AMORA...

And meanwhile, elsewhere in Manhattan...

...Amora's sister, Lorelei--
and her paramour Sigurd--
were doing what they loved.



**BDAM
BDAM**

RELAX,
GENTLEMEN.

I'M
AIMING
FOR YOUR
GUNS.

**BDAM
BDAM**



AAOWW!

SP-DANNG

M-MY
INDEX DISTAL
PHALANX!

SPANNG

SPANNG



COOL UNDER
PRESSURE.
I'M STARTING TO
REMEMBER WHY
I LIKE YOU.

I'M A HERO,
REMEMBER?
"COOL" IS IN
THE JOB
DESCRIPTION.

I THOUGHT
"NOT ROBBING
BANKS" WAS
IN THE JOB
DESCRIPTION...



PFFT! MORTALS LOVE
THIS STUFF. I'VE SEEN
THEIR MOVIES.

IF I'D BEEN
ROBBING BANKS
INSTEAD OF FIGHTING
FIRES FOR THE LAST
HUNDRED YEARS, I'D BE
MORE OF A HERO
THAN THOR--

TRUE.



BUT
RIGHT
NOW, THAT'S
NOT A HIGH
BAR TO
CLEAR.

I FOUND
YOU WITH LOVE,
SISTER. MY LOVE
FOR YOU LET ME
CAST A PORTAL
TO YOUR VERY
SIDE.

AND
LOOK WHAT
I FIND YOU
DOING.



SIGURD,
DEAR--
IF YOU
COULD?

NONLETHAL IF YOU
MUST, JUST SO
LONG AS IT
HURTS...

I...
SOMETHING
FEELS...

LORELEI...



IT SEEMS SIGURD LOVES YOU, SISTER.
OUT OF ALL THE WOMEN HE'S KNOWN...
HE LOVES YOU. HE THINKS ONLY
OF YOUR HAPPINESS.

LORELEI,
LORELEI,
LORELEI...



--A
CALLOUS
USER--A
BREAKER OF
HEARTS--

AMORA--

I'M NOT
ANGRY,
LOKI.



I'VE
SIMPLY
MADE THAT
LITERAL
FOR A
TIME.

THOUGH
WHY, FOR
THE LIFE OF
ME, A HERO
OF ASGARD
SHOULD LOVE
YOU--



I'M JUST
VERY.

VERY.

DISAPPOINTED.



FINE! YOU'VE HUMILIATED
ME AGAIN, AMORA--
CONGRATULATIONS!

WHY DON'T
YOU GO AND
BULLY SOMEONE
ELSE, YOU
STUCK-UP,
EVIL--



EVIL? YOU CALL ME EVIL? I-- I WILL SEE YOU IN CHAINS!

AMORA, PLEASE! SURELY WE'VE DONE ENOUGH--

SO WE SHOULD LEAVE THEM FOR MORTAL JUDGMENT? NEVER! LORELEI WILL BE PUNISHED PROPERLY FOR HER CRIMES--

THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU--

ISN'T THAT THE WHOLE POINT?



SHE-- SHE RAN RIOT OVER MIDGARD! SHE BROKE THE LAWS OF ASGARD A DOZEN TIMES! LIKE IT MEANT NOTHING!

SHE'S YOUR SISTER--

AND I LOVE HER!



THAT'S WHY IT HURTS SO--BECAUSE I MUST LOVE JUSTICE MORE.

THAT'S WHAT BEING A HERO IS.

NO! DON'T TAKE US TO ASGARDIA!

ODIN DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW--

PLEASE!

And as the Enchantress did what heroes must, and dragged her sister screaming to her fate... Loki felt ice in his spine.



For if the inversion had made the evil in them into good...

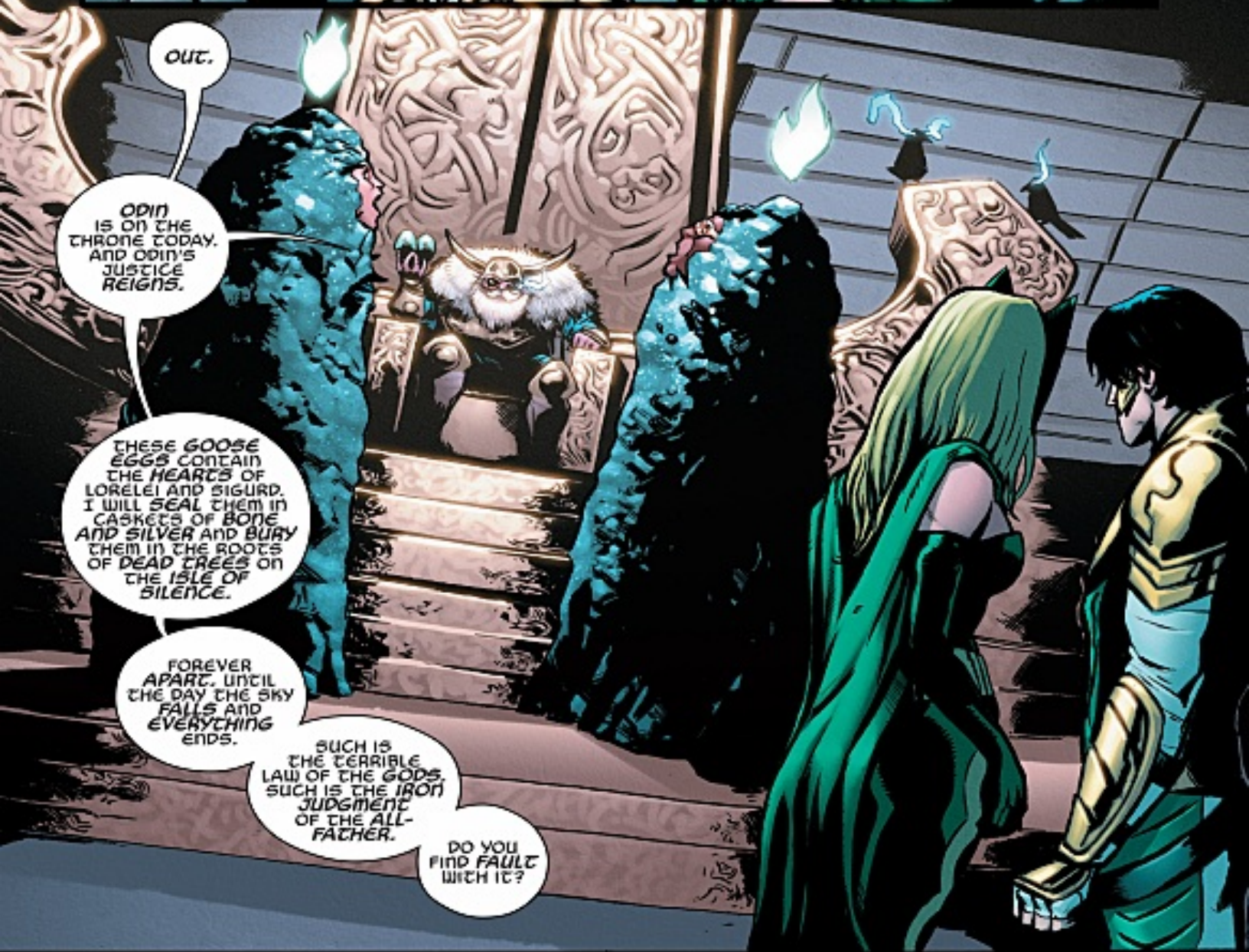


...then what of the good?

NO
GOOD WILL
COME OF
THIS.

AH...MY
LIEGE, WHERE
IS THE ALL-
MOTHER...?

ASGARDIA.
THE GREAT THRONE
OF DECISION.



OUT.

ODIN
IS ON THE
THRONE TODAY.
AND ODIN'S
JUSTICE
REIGNS.

THESE GOOSE
EGGS CONTAIN
THE HEARTS OF
LORELEI AND SIGURD.
I WILL SEAL THEM IN
CASKETS OF BONE
AND SILVER AND BURY
THEM IN THE ROOTS OF
DEAD TREES ON
THE ISLE OF
SILENCE.

FOREVER
APART, UNTIL
THE DAY THE SKY
FALLS AND
EVERYTHING
ENDS.

SUCH IS
THE TERRIBLE
LAW OF THE GODS.
SUCH IS THE IRON
JUDGMENT
OF THE ALL-
FATHER.

DO YOU
FIND FAULT
WITH IT?



FATHER--
I--

--REGRET THE
NECESSITY OF
THIS ACTION,
SIRE.

BUT WE
OBEY YOUR
AUTHORITY
IN ALL
THINGS.



WHAT HERO
WOULD DO
LESS?

COME, LOKI. OUR
FIFTEEN MINUTES
ARE ALMOST
UP.

Y-YES...



LOKI.

A
WORD.



WHEN LAST
I SAW YOU...
YOU HAD
GROWN.

NOW YOU
ARE SHRUNKEN.
TURNING ON THOSE
YOU ONCE CALLED
COMRADE--WHO
STOOD WITH YOU
WHEN NO ONE
ELSE WOULD.

IS THIS
A CHANGED
GOD I SEE
BEFORE
ME?

FATHER--

NO.

FOR ALL
YOUR NOBLE
DEEDS THESE
PAST DAYS, YOU
LACK THAT QUALITY
WHICH MAKES TRUE
HEROES. THAT WHICH
YOUR BROTHER
WALKED THROUGH
FIRE TO
LEARN.



YOU LACK
HUMILITY.

AND
WITHOUT
HUMILITY...
YES, YOU MAY
CHANGE.

YOU MAY
CHANGE, AND
CHANGE, AND
CHANGE, LIKE A VAIN FOOL TRYING
DIFFERENT ARMORS TO
SEE WHICH GLEAMS
BRIGHTEST, WHILE
THE BATTLE GOES
ON WITHOUT
HIM.



YOU MAY
CHANGE.

BUT
YOU WILL
NEVER
GROW.

"NOW GET THEE
FROM MY SIGHT."

THERE
YOU ARE, I
WAS WONDERIN'
WHERE YOU TWO
LOVEBIRDS HAD
GONE TO.

TWO-
MINUTE
WARNING,
"ONE DIRECTION,"
DO SOME
STRETCHES.

AND DON'T
WANDER
OFF AGAIN,
Y'HEAR?

AMORA...

DON'T,
LOKI. IT'S
HARD, I KNOW,
BUT WE DID
THE RIGHT
THING--

NOT
THAT. WHAT'S
DONE IS
DONE.

BUT...
SOMETHING
MY FATHER SAID.
AND SOMETHING
THOR SAID, IN
LAS VEGAS.

"I ASKED
HIM ABOUT
MJOLNIR..."

I LEFT
THAT CURSED
RELIC ON THE
MOON.

I AM
UNWORTHY--
GLADLY SO.

AND?

AND... I'VE
STRAYED
FROM PLOTS
AND
SCHEMES,
OF LATE.

I'VE
EMBRACED
THIS CHANGE IN
US. TRIED TO BE
EVERYTHING I WAS
NOT BEFORE.

BUT
NOW... NOW
I HAVE A
SCHEME.

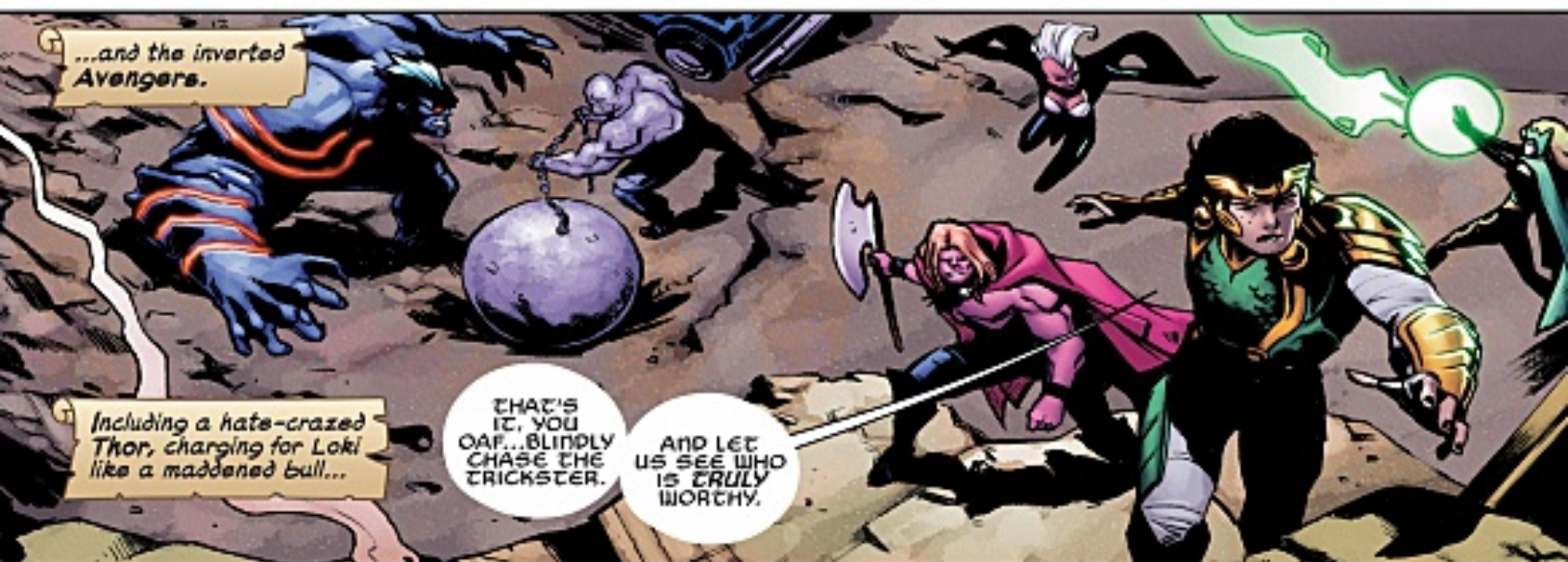
AND
IT'S A
DOOZY.



And then...there came a day unlike any other.

When Earth's Mightiest Villains--reborn as their best selves, fighting for the continued existence of humankind--

--were united against the common threat of Apocalypse's X-Men...



...and the inverted Avengers.

Including a hate-crazed Thor, charging for Loki like a maddened bull...

THAT'S IT, YOU OAF...BLINDLY CHASE THE TRICKSTER.

AND LET US SEE WHO IS TRULY WORTHY.



...straight into the trap.

YOUR SCREAMS SHALL BE WORTHY OF SONG--

YOUR DEATH UNENDING!



YOU WILL SUFFER.

YOUR BONES DELIVERED TO THE ICY PIT THAT BORE THEM.

I SWEAR IT, YOU BASTARD ABOMINATION--



--THIS
TIME I KILL
YOU.

YOU
CANNOT HIDE,
BROTHER!

THIS PLOT,
WHATEVER PURPOSE
YOU BROUGHT US
HERE FOR, PRETTY
GAME PLAYER--IT
WILL AVAIL YOU
NOT!

There is air on the moon,
in the Blue Area.

1 Air enough for Loki
to hear his brother's
rage...

2 Thor's good and crazy now.
No problem. Loki thinks to himself,
with getting Lord Loudington to
give chase. All that remains...
is the plan.

3 For a moment, he allows himself
the luxury of doubt...but there's
no time for that now. Not when
everything is on the line.

4 Not just for humanity. Loki knows
this is his one chance to escape
fate. To escape his rotten future.

5 No pressure.

6 Steve Rogers made him
an Avenger, he thinks.
Everyone is counting
on him.

7 If the Odinson returns
to Earth...it will be a
bloodbath.

8 And Thor is
Loki's brother--

9 --Loki's
responsibility.

AND
YOU'LL NOT BE
SO PRETTY WHEN
JARNBJORN
IS DONE WITH
YOU!

RUN
AS FAST
AS YOU CAN--
BUT I AM COMING,
YOU PREENING
HALF-A-
MAN!

DEATH
IS
COMING!



Loki has held fast to the change in him--clung to it, like a drowning man clutching at straws.

Now--it's time to sink or swim.

The ultimate test.



Only those worthy can lift Mjolnir. Only the truest of heroes.

If Loki cannot lift it now...he is done for.

Literally...



...and metaphorically.

Far away, King Loki--his future self, evil beyond measure, powerful beyond imagining--watches.

And laughs.

OH ME.
OH MY.

I CAN'T
BEAR TO
LOOK...



FATHER.

IF THERE
BE GODS
THAT GODS
MAY PRAY
TO...

...LET ME
HAVE TRULY
CHANGED.



YOU FIND
THE TRUTH
SO TO YOUR
LIKING NOW,
"BROTHER"?

HERE
IS THE
TRUTH.

I
NEVER
LOVED
YOU!

NEITHER
DID FATHER!
NOR MOTHER!



THAT IS THE
TRUTH.

YOU ARE
A BURDEN--
A GRAVE
DISAPPOINTMENT
TO YOUR
FAMILY!



HOW
MUCH MORE
HEARTBROKEN
THEY MUST
BE--



--AT THE
CHOSEN'S
FAILURE TO
LIFT HIS OWN
HAMMER!

[illegible]

YOU?

YOU **RIDICULOUS** LITTLE--Mjolnir LEAVES ME AND FINDS YOU?

YOU ARE **NOTHING!** A SCHEMING, SELFISH COWARD!

A comic book panel showing Thor with long blonde hair and a red cape, shouting and pointing his finger at a dark, hooded figure (Loki). The background is dark with some light effects.

A VILLAIN YOUR WHOLE LIFE--

--AND A USELESS FAILURE EVEN AT THAT!

WHY?

WHY YOU?

A LITTLE HUMILITY, BROTHER!

I HEAR IT'S GOOD FOR THE SOUL!





AND BEAT YOUR DAMNED
STUPID HEAD INTO THE
GROUND--

HA!



UFFF--

NOT
SO NOBLE
NOW!

AND YOU
MADE AN ERROR
IN LURING ME
HERE, SON
OF LAUFY!



THIS ONE
SPOT ON THE
MOON WHERE THERE
IS AIR! AND
WEATHER!

FOR
I AM THE
OPINION,
STILL--

--THE
TRUE GOD OF
THUNDER!

MASTER
OF THE
STORM!

NOW
TASTE MY
SERVANT'S
FURY--

--AND
DIE!





WHAT...?

HOW...HOW
CAN YOU
WITHSTAND
MY...?

YOUR
POWER?

WHY, THE
SECRET IS
IN MY HANDS,
ODINSON. ETCHED
IN URU BY THE
KING OF ALL
GODS.

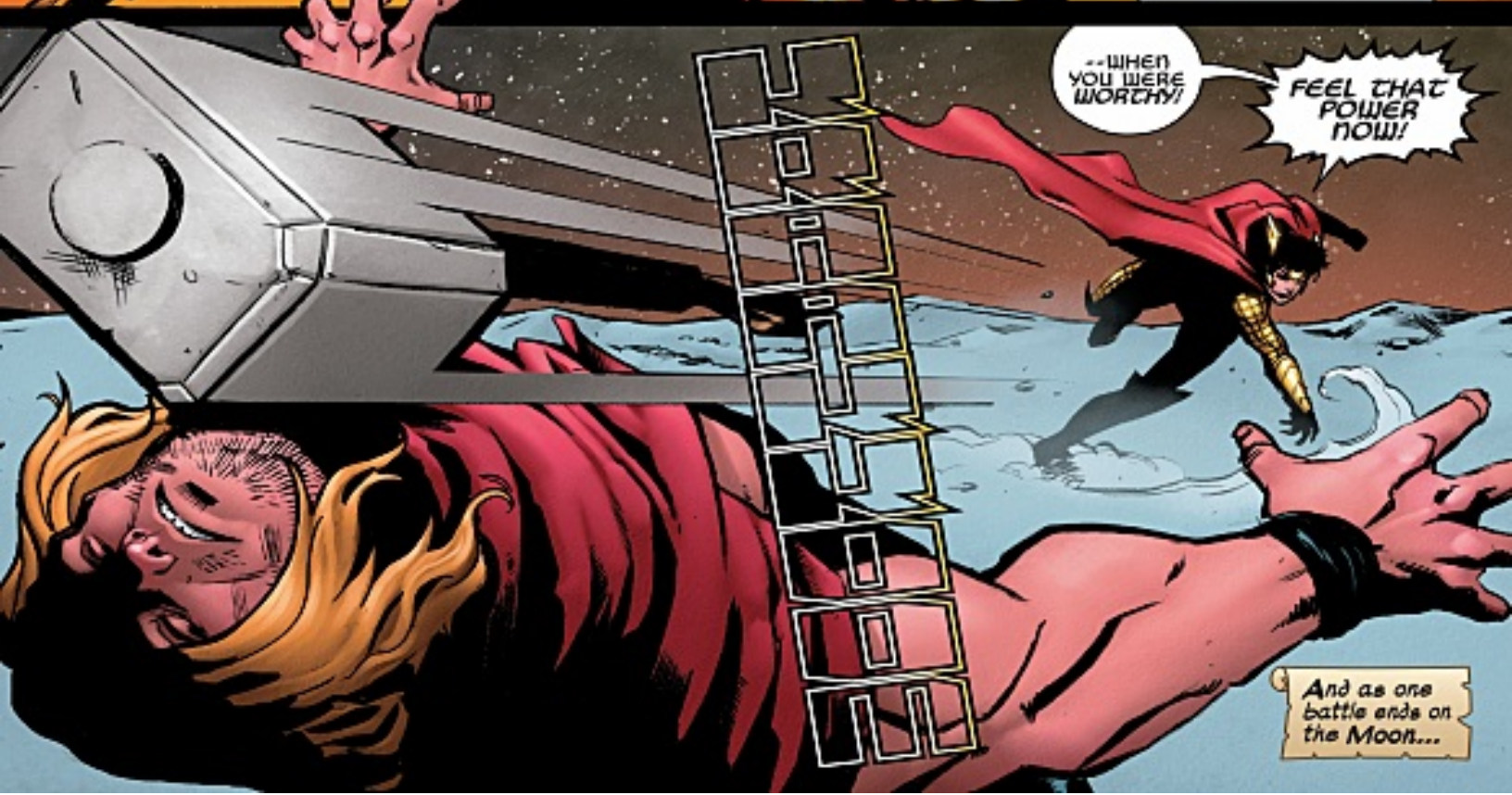
"WHOEVER
HOLDS THE
HAMMER...
IF HE BE
WORTHY..."



"...SHALL
POSSESS
THE POWER
OF THOR!"

YOUR
POWER
INDEED,
BROTHER.

THE
POWER YOU
HELD WHEN YOU
STOOD FOR HONOR
AND JUSTICE ACROSS
THE UNIVERSE ENTIRE--



--WHEN
YOU WERE
WORTHY!

FEEL THAT
POWER
NOW!

And as one
battle ends on
the Moon...



...another comes to its close on Earth.

The architects of the inversion spell, brought together again--

LET US CLEANSE THIS POISON--



NOW WILL YOU ADMIT WE CAN CHANGE, BROTHER? NOW WILL YOU WORK WITH ME--TO SAVE US BOTH?

NOW THAT YOU'VE FINALLY WALKED IN MY SHOES?

HOW DOES IT FEEL, THOR? TO BE THE ONE FALLEN? TO BE THE FAILURE DEFEATED BY THE NOBLE HERO! HOW DOES IT FEEL TO KNOW--

--I AM MORE WORTHY THAN YOU!



GRA--

--to undo their work.

This was a story of good, and of evil, told in fitting style. A story of Loki's chance to play the hero--and of his last hope of redemption.

And now, that story ends.

Forever.

no.



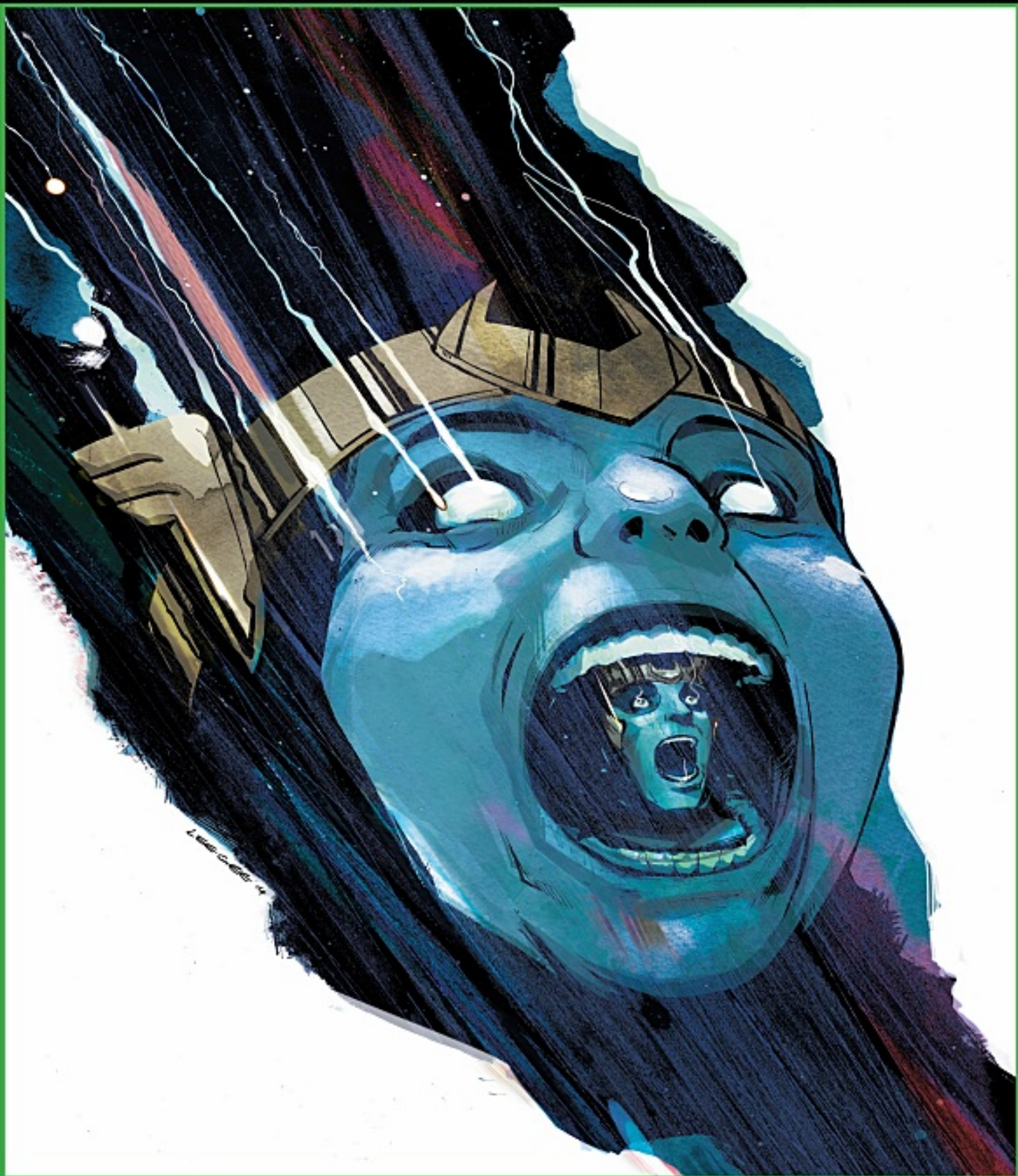
I AM THE
CRIME THAT
WILL NOT BE
FORGIVEN.



...THERE ARE SOME STORIES NONE WILL EVER BELIEVE.

NEXT ISSUE:
THE AFTERMATH...
AND THE STORM TO
COME. DON'T MISS IT.

**NEXT ISSUE:
THE CRIME THAT WILL NOT BE FORGIVEN!**



LOKI: AGENT OF ASGARD #10





EMPIRE